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AN ACCOUNT
OF THE
Establishment and Subsequent Progress
OF
FREEMASONRY,
IN THE
COLONY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA,
FROM ITS ORIGIN IN 1859, to 1871.

VICTORIA, B. C., 1871.

BOULT'S BOOK STORE
(OPEN SATURDAY EVENINGS)
313½ CAMBIE STREET

VICTORIA, B. C.:
PRINTED AT THE BRITISH COLONIST OFFICE,
1871.

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A STATEMENT

Of the position of the Masonic Fraternity in the Colony of Vancouver Island and British Columbia, compiled for the information of the Craft, in consequence of a Proposition by certain Brethren to form an Independent Grand Lodge for the Colony.

FORMATION OF LODGES.

The inauguration of Masonry in this Colony dates from the constitution of Victoria Lodge, No. 1085, (now No. 783,) under Warrant from the Grand Lodge of England, dated March 19th, 1859. This was followed by the constitution of a second Lodge, under the Grand Lodge of England, at New Westminster, British Columbia, called Union Lodge, No. 1201, (now No. 899,) by Warrant dated Dec. 16th, 1861.

An application dated 1st April, 1862, was received by Victoria Lodge from certain of its members and other unaffiliated brethren, asking for a recommendation to the Grand Lodge of Scotland to entertain favorably their petition to form a Lodge, to be called Vancouver Lodge, No—, under that jurisdiction. At the regular monthly meeting of Victoria Lodge, held on the 15th May, 1862, the petition was read, and on motion duly proposed and seconded, the following resolution was adopted:

"That the Victoria Lodge No. 1085 cordially responds to the petition of the Brethren desirous to establish a Lodge under the Grand Lodge of Scotland; but in doing so, they reserve the precedence of the Grand Lodge of England in general Masonic affairs within the colony, and they communicate this resolution to the Grand Lodge of England, as a matter of record."

An amendment, duly moved and seconded by two of the petitioning Brethren, "That the petition be granted as it stood," was lost.

Prior, however, to this action, the following resolution appears on the minutes of Victoria Lodge, as having been duly passed at the regular meeting held on January 24th, 1861:

"Whereas we have been informed that a party in this community have applied to the Grand Lodge of Washington Territory for a Dispensation or Warrant to organize a Lodge of F. & A. M. in this town, it is, therefore,

"RESOLVED, That while we hail the Grand Lodge of Washington Territory and all other Grand Lodges as Brethren and Masons, we do not recognize their power to grant Dispensations or Warrants out of the district of their own country, and all Dispensations and Warrants emanating from any other source than the Grand Lodges of the mother country in this place, we shall hold as clandestine, and all Masons visiting such Lodges cannot be recognized by us as Masons."

The result was the formation of a Third Lodge, called Vancouver Lodge, No. 421, under Warrant from the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

A Fourth Lodge, under the Grand Lodge of England, was constituted at Nanaimo, Vancouver Island, called Nanaimo Lodge, No. 1090, by Warrant bearing date Jan. 16th, 1866.

A Fifth Lodge, under the Grand Lodge of England, was constituted at Victoria, Vancouver Island, called British Columbia Lodge, No. 1187, by Warrant dated July 26th, 1867.

A Sixth Lodge was formed at Barkerville, Cariboo, British Columbia, (under dispensation and subsequently by Warrant No. 466,) under the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

A Seventh Lodge was formed at Nanaimo (under dispensation from the R. W. P. G. Master for Scotland) called Caledonia Lodge; (subsequently chartered by a Warrant No. 478) under the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

An Eighth Lodge was formed at Hastings, British Columbia, (under dispensation) called Mount Hermon Lodge, under the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

A Ninth Lodge was formed at Victoria, Vancouver Island, (under dispensation) called Quadra Lodge, under the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

At this date the Lodges under the Grand Lodge of England are aware that there is no Charter for the Ninth Lodge and have not been notified of the receipt of a Charter for the Eighth; nor have they been informed of the dates of the authorities under which the last two named Lodges are acting.

A "Provincial Grand Master" was appointed by the M. W. Grand Master of Scotland for the Scotch Jurisdiction in this Colony, on the day of 186.

A "District Grand Master" was appointed by the M. W. Grand Master of England for the English Jurisdiction in this Colony, by Patent dated 10th Sept., 1867.

Such is the history of the Lodges in this Colony under the Two Jurisdictions up to the present date.

FIRST PROPOSAL TO FORM AN INDEPENDENT GRAND LODGE FOR THIS COLONY.

At a meeting of Vancouver Lodge, No. 421, held on Jan. 2nd, 1869, a series of Resolutions was passed, and communicated to the Lodges in the Colony by the following Circular :

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DENT GRAND LODGE

No. 421, held on Jan.
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VANCOUVER LODGE, 421, R. S. }
Victoria, Jan. 5th, 1869. }

R. Plummer, Esq., District Grand Clerk, District Grand Lodge
of English Masons in B. C.

Dear Sir and Brother:

I herewith transmit to you a Copy of Resolutions
unanimously passed by Vancouver Lodge, at a meeting held Jan.
2nd, 1869.

Moved by Bro. R. H. Adams, seconded by Bro. H. E
Seelye :

1st—That there are at present in the Colony of British
Columbia, a Provincial Grand Lodge of Free Masons under the
Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and a District
Grand Lodge under that of the Grand Lodge of England.

2nd—That under these Provincial and District Grand
Lodges, there are only Eight Subordinate Lodges, (one under
dispensation), representing numerically a Brotherhood of about
Three Hundred.

3rd—That the support of these two Provincial and District
Grand Lodges—in addition to the transmission of Grand Lodge
fees to both Mother Grand Lodges in Scotland and England—
causes a drain upon the funds of the Subordinate Lodges, so
great as to prevent their accumulation for any local, benevolent
or other purposes calculated to advance the interests and happi-
ness of the Order in this Colony.

4th—That the existence of two Grand Lodges, or financially
speaking, four Grand Lodges, tends [besides scattering the funds]
to create jealousies and rivalry highly injurious to what would
otherwise be a happy and united brotherhood, to open our sacred
portals to the unworthy, and dissipate strength and resources
which, combined, would fully establish support and amply pro-
vide for the permanent success and prosperity of one Independent
Grand Lodge.

5th—That the decisions and edicts of a Provincial or District
Grand Lodge are unsatisfactory, inasmuch as they are not final
and may be appealed from, and the great distance of England or
Scotland from the Colony, the uncertainty of mail communication
and the delays which are apt to and do occur in correspondence,
causing often vexatious repetition so as entirely to prevent the
good results which would accrue from the establishment of Grand
Lodge authority in this Colony.

6th—That the formation of an *Independent Grand Lodge of
British Columbia*, uniting the brethren of both jurisdictions under
one Grand authority, responsible to themselves, would at once
ensure harmony and promote the success and prosperity of *all*,
retain monies in one Grand Lodge for our own Masonic purposes

which are now exacted by four Grand Lodges—two of which are Ten Thousand miles distant—and enable us at once to command the respect and hearty co-operation of sister Independent Grand Lodges throughout the world.

7th—That a Committee be appointed to confer with all sister Lodges upon the subject of the foregoing resolutions, and to recommend the best means of carrying them into effect, either by calling a General Convention of the Craft, or otherwise as may seem most expedient.

Bros. P. M., R. H. Adams, P. M., M. W. Waitt, and Bro. E. E. Seelye were appointed a Committee on the foregoing resolutions.

I have the honor to be, My Dear Sir and Brother,
Yours Fraternally,

R. B. POWELL, Secretary.

On receipt of this Circular, Victoria Lodge, No. 783, passed a Resolution which they communicated to the R. W. D. G. Master, as follows:

VICTORIA LODGE No. 783, E. R., }
11th February, 1869. }

R. W. SIR,

I have the honor to forward copy of a resolution passed by the Victoria Lodge No. 783 at the last regular meeting, relative to a communication received from Vancouver Lodge No. 421, R. S., embodying certain resolutions passed by the said Lodge as to the desirability of forming an Independent Grand Lodge of British Columbia, and suggesting that a committee be appointed to consider and recommend the best means of carrying said resolutions into effect:

RESOLVED, That the communication received from Vancouver Lodge No. 421, R. S., in relation to the subject of the formation of an independent Grand Lodge of British Columbia, be forwarded to the Rt. W. District Grand Master, with the request that he take immediate steps to lay the same before the Grand Lodge of England."

Enclosing copy of said resolutions,

I have the honor to be,
Rt. Worshipful Sir and Brother,
WM. LEIGH, Secretary.

Robert Burnaby, Esq., R.W.D.G.M.

On receipt of the above document, the R. W. D. G. M. addressed the following letter to the V.W.G. Secretary:

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ODGE No. 783, E. R., }
February, 1869. }

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Sir and Brother,
WM. LEIGH, Secretary.

, the R. W. D. G. M. ad-
G. Secretary:

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, BRITISH COLUMBIA, }
8th February, 1869. }

The V. W. Brother John Hervey, Grand Secretary, &c., &c.,
Freemasons' Hall, London,
V. W. AND DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,

I enclose for your information a circular which has, without
my concurrence, been forwarded to the several Lodges under my
jurisdiction.

All the Lodges, with the exception of Victoria, No. 783, de-
clined to enter into the question without authority from the
Grand Lodge. Victoria Lodge, after much discussion, referred
the matter to me, with a request that I would take steps to bring
it before the authorities in England.

As a simple matter of course, looking to the source from
whence my own rank is derived, and from whence the warrants
issue under which we work, I could not for an instant entertain
such questions as those propounded in this circular, nor could
I permit any Brethren under my control to take any action what-
ever in respect of them, unless I were sure that the Grand Lodge
of England would countenance or encourage any such course.

I have already informed you in a previous letter of the com-
plications that occasionally threatened to arise owing to the ex-
istence of the District Grand Lodge of English and the Provincial
Grand Lodge of Scotch Freemasons in this small community, and I
stated that the Provincial Grand Master shewed every disposi-
tion to unite with me in promoting harmony amongst the Breth-
ren. He is no party to the present agitation, and is, I think,
intending to seek from his Grand Lodge the same counsel I am
now asking from mine.

In opening this case, it is necessary in the first place to pre-
mise that this colony is a small and isolated British community in
close proximity to American Territories and States, each of which,
as a matter of course, has its own Independent Grand Lodge.
Our population contains, besides many Americans, a large pro-
portion of Canadians, who have also an Independent Grand
Lodge—hence among the more restless spirits of the Craft has
arisen this desire to achieve also an independent position and to
take rank as a distinct Grand Lodge. I also alluded in my for-
mer letter to the fact that the working of the Scotch ritual assi-
milates more closely than ours to that which is adopted in the
American Lodges. This tends to unite the sympathies of these
two branches of the Order, and to render our jurisdiction more
isolated and select. Those Masons who were made in England
and whose associations, like my own, cling affectionately to our
own noble mother Grand Lodge—second to none in the Craft—

view with apprehension, in the present small state of things here any such movement as that which is contemplated in this circular and I am convinced that many of them would at once retire from any active connection with the Craft in the event of its being consummated. Nevertheless, having at heart the good of the Craft and the extension of its usefulness, I should be truly glad if the Grand Lodges of England and Scotland, by conference together, could devise some plan under which the two jurisdictions could work in concert under one head. How far this may be possible I do not know; but any advice or assistance in this direction will be most gratefully hailed by me. I candidly avow my apprehensions that, if something of the kind be not done, the Craft, which has thus far made much progress, may become divided against itself, and its influence for good may be weakened in this community. But, at the same time, the insignificance of our numbers and the unimportance of the colony scarcely justify even the idea of independence. Your kind counsel and aid on this difficult point will be gratefully acknowledged by me. Of one thing you may rest assured, that neither by thought, word or action have I any inclination to sever myself from the authority of our Grand Lodge nor from the supreme control of our noble and esteemed Grand Master, by whose kind confidence and patronage I enjoy the dignities he has conferred upon me.

With kind and fraternal regards,

Believe me, Dear Brother and V. W. Sir,

Yours Fraternaly,

ROBERT BURNABY, D. G. M.

To which the following reply was received :

FREEMASONS' HALL,
London, W. C., May 10th, 1869. }

R. W. and Dear Sir and Brother :

I have delayed replying to your letter of the 8th of February much longer than I ought to have done, partly from over occupation, the preparations for opening our New Buildings here having monopolised my entire attention, and partly from feeling satisfied that you would be able to deal with the subject you wrote about much better by exercising your own judgment on the spot, than by any advice which could emanate from this quarter.

I am sure I only speak the sentiments of every good Mason when I say how much I should regret if the Masons of your District took any step which might lessen their own influence. As a District Grand Lodge of the Grand Lodge of England the Brethren in Vancouver Island enjoy a far more influential position than they could possibly do, if they formed themselves into

small state of things here, contemplated in this circular, would at once retire from in the event of its being at heart the good of the ss, I should be truly glad Scotland, by conference to which the two jurisdictions l. How far this may be or assistance in this di- oy me. I candidly avow he kind be not done, the gress, may become divid- ood may be weakened in the insignificance of our ony scarcely justify even counsel and aid on this edged by me. Of one ey thought, word or act om the authority of our control of our noble and confidence and patronage on me.

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T BURNABY, D. G. M.

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May 10th, 1869. }

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an Independent Grand Lodge, whose paucity of numbers would simply render it ridiculous. So long as they form a branch of the parent stock and receive the moral support of the Mother Country, they will be looked up to with respect. I think if you could enforce some arguments of this kind on the Brethren, it might tend to allay their desire for change. It should be borne in mind that it is of far more importance for the Masons in your District to receive the support and countenance of the Grand Lodge of England, than the secession of a few lodges can be to the latter body. I do not myself clearly see how the English and Scotch Lodges can be brought under one head; still the matter is worth consideration. Perhaps, I may shortly be favored with some further information and communication from you, when if the matter appears to warrant my doing so, I will bring the whole subject under the notice of the M. W. Grand Master. I trust, however, that the judiciousness of your measures and the good sense of the Brethren under your control may not render this necessary.

Believe me, Dear and R. W. Sir and Brother,

Yours Truly and Fraternally,

JOHN HERVEY, G. S.

Robert Burnaby, Esq.,

R. W. D. G. M. British Columbia.

As the Annual Meeting of District Grand Lodge occurred on the 11th of March, 1869, the R. W. D. G. M. availed himself of the occasion to read his letter dated the 8th February addressed to the Grand Secretary of England, and stated he thought it desirable this letter should be read, that this Grand Lodge might be aware of what he had done and that of course until he had a reply he could do nothing more.

By the printed Report of the Proceedings of the Second Annual Communication of the P. G. Lodge, R. S., held at Victoria, May 1st, 1869, it appears that the R. W. P. G. M. dealt with this subject as follows :

" My position here as representative of the M. W. the Grand Master Mason of Scotland, prevented me from taking any notice of this document either in favor of or against, unless with the advice and direction of our Grand Lodge. In a local point of view it is difficult, however, to conceal from one's self the impression that the existence of Lodges hailing from two Grand Lodges with the contingency of other jurisdictions being at no distant day introduced, does tend to create diversity of interests and allegiance, to induce local and national prejudices, ungenerous and unmasonic rivalry between Lodges (already alluded to in a former part of this address), and, as has been aptly expressed in a reso-

lution passed by the Brethren of a sister colony, fosters much estrangement among the Brethren of a society which in itself 'knows no country, is confined to no race.' I will transmit the resolutions as passed to Scotland, for the action and advice, if any, of our Grand Lodge."

The Craft are thus far uninformed as to any reply having been received from the Grand Lodge of Scotland on this subject; but it will be perceived that the representatives of the two jurisdictions regarded the subject from the same point of view, as a matter of Masonic discipline.

On the 10th of March, 1870, the D. G. S. wrote to the Grand Sec. of England and enquired if the resolution of Victoria Lodge (referred to above under date May 15th, 1862,) had been received and recorded in his office. To which enquiry he received a reply dated 16th September, 1870, as follows:

"I have examined the papers of 1862 and have ascertained that the Victoria Lodge transmitted in the month of September of that year a copy of the minute of their Lodge of 15th May 1862, in the exact terms transcribed by you in your letter of the 10th March, 1870."

At the quarterly communication of D. G. Lodge, held at Victoria on the 9th Sept., 1869, the R. W. D. G. M. caused the D. G. S. to read his letter of the 8th Feb., 1869, and the reply of the G. S., dated 10th May, 1869, on the proposal to form an Independent Grand Lodge. He then observed that the G. Sec. of the G. S. would commend itself to the good sense of all present. He quite agreed with the G. S. that we were too small in numbers for any such step, and he thought we might very well rest content to hail under the *First* Grand Lodge in the world under which we were sure of commanding respect; whereas, as a separate Grand Lodge, from our paucity of numbers and comparative insignificance, we should scarcely be recognized and be simply ridiculous.

From this date the question remained in abeyance until a circular was sent to all the *Subordinate* Lodges in the colony from the Committee of Vancouver Lodge, No. 421, R. S., of which the following is a copy:

MASONIC HALL,

Victoria, B. C., 24th Jan., 1871. }

To the Worshipful Master, Officers and Members of Victoria Lodge, No. 783, E. R.

Dear Sirs and Brethren,

We beg to transmit to you enclosed a copy of the Resolutions adopted by Vancouver Lodge, No. 421, in reference to the formation of an Independent Grand Lodge of British Columbia.

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to any reply having been and on this subject; but lives of the two jurisdictions of view, as a mat

D. G. S. wrote to the G. of Victoria Lodge (1862,) had been received inquiry he received a reply

63 and have ascertained the month of September their Lodge of 15th May you in your letter of the

of D. G. Lodge, held at W. D. G. M. caused the b., 1869, and the reply of e proposal to form an In- served that the G. Secre- the good sense of all pre- that we were too small in ight we might very well and Lodge in the world, ng respect; whereas, as a ty of numbers and com- pely be recognized and be

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HALL, }
14th Jan., 1871. }
Members of Victoria

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having in view the union of both the English and Scotch Juris- dictions under one Grand Master, and also an excerpt of the Re- port of the M. W. Grand Lodge of Canada at their last Session in reference to this subject.

(7)

At the Regular Meeting of Vancouver Lodge, No. 421, R. S. held at Victoria on Wednesday the 18th inst., it was announced:

"That the Resolutions above referred to, so far as heard from, have met with the sympathy and approval of all Grand Lodges to which they had been referred, thereby removing any doubt which might have been held with respect to the early and complete recognition of a proposed Independent Grand Lodge of British Columbia."

It was moved by Bro. H. F. Heisterman and seconded by Bro. P. M., G. C. Keays:

"That in view of the aforesaid encouragement it is now ex- pedient to form an Independent Grand Lodge of British Colum- bia and that this Lodge appoint a Committee of Three, to invite the co-operation of all the other Sister Lodges in the Colony, to meet in Convention at a certain day, to be fixed by them, in the City of Victoria."

Which Resolution on being put, was unanimously adopted.

The Lodge then appointed Bros. P. M. Simeon Duck; P. M., G. C. Keays; H. F. Heisterman, Provincial Grand Secretary; and Committee, with full powers to act.

At a Meeting of the aforesaid Committee convened under the above authority, to whom was added Bro. Geo. Grant, late M. W. of Cariboo Lodge, No. 469, but now S. W. of Quadra Lodge, U. D., it was

RESOLVED, that Bro. Simeon Duck be Chairman, and Bro. H. F. Heisterman be Secretary, to the Meeting.

"RESOLVED, That a copy of the above resolutions be ad- dressed to the different Lodges in British Columbia under the English and Scotch Registers, requesting them to appoint the Worshipful Master, P. M's and present Wardens, to meet in a Convention to be held at the Masonic Hall, in the City of Vic- toria on Saturday, the 18th day of March, 1871, at 2 o'clock p.m. to consider the same and pursuant thereafter to form an Inde- pendent Grand Lodge of British Columbia, if deemed then and there expedient; and further, that any Lodge not being in a po- sition to be represented by the above Officers, may appoint proxy- es to represent them. Carried."

The proposed Meeting is requested in the hope that on fraternal discussion of the whole matter agreement may be se-

cured and *unanimous* action taken by the several Lodges in the Colony.

Dated at the City of Victoria, in the Colony of British Columbia, the 24th day of January, A. D. 1871.

H. F. HEISTERMAN,
Secretary.

SIMEON DUCK,
Chairman.

[The resolutions enclosed in the above letter were the same as those already quoted which were circulated by the same Lodge in 1869.]

On receipt of this circular, Victoria Lodge, No. 783, addressed the following letter to the D. G. S.:

VICTORIA LODGE, 783, E. R., }
6th Feb., 1871.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,

I have the honor to forward for the information of R. W. D. G. Master, Officers and Members of D. G. Lodge, a communication from Bro. Sec. of Vancouver Lodge, together with enclosures, and read at the last regular meeting of this Lodge on the 2nd inst. when the following resolution, moved by Bro. P. M. E. Harrison, was duly carried:

"RESOLVED That the communication now read be forwarded to Bro. D. G. Secretary and referred to R. W. D. G. Master Burnaby, asking his permission to allow the Victoria Lodge, No. 783, to appoint a Committee to meet the Committee referred to in said communication."

The said resolution was seconded and carried.

I beg further to state that Bro. P. M., Henry Nathan entered his protest on the minutes against said communication, with enclosures, being read, considering it out of the power of the Lodge to take action in reference to said documents.

I have the honor to be, Dear Sir and Brother,

Yours Fraternally,

WM. LEIGH, Secretary.

The letter and circular were laid before the Board of General Purposes of D. G. Lodge, with the following memorandum from the D. G. M.:

VICTORIA, B. C., 11th Feb., 1871.

[MEMORANDUM.]

"The D. G. Master, having read the communication from the Committee of Vancouver Lodge, No. 421, R. S., to the W. M. officers and members of Victoria Lodge, No. 783, E. R., referred the same to the Board of General Purposes for their report and suggestions thereon. At the same time he wishes to point out that the Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of

several Lodges in the
Colony of British Col-
1871.

SIMEON DUCK,

Chairman.

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A LODGE, 783, E. R., }
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W. LEIGH, Secretary.

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S. C., 11th Feb., 1871.

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England cannot accede to such a proposition, without either vio-
lating or abandoning the warrants under which they now act, and
which it is presumed would not be done without a full vote of
each Lodge being taken on the subject, supposing the Board of
General Purposes should think it desirable to submit such a ques-
tion to any Subordinate Lodge, without a previous reference to
the Grand Lodge of England. The D. G. Master also suggests
to the Board of General Purposes for their consideration how far
such a communication as that now referred to them is consistent
with ordinary Masonic discipline, addressed as it is to private
Lodges without any previous reference to the authorities under
whose jurisdiction they are acting.

The D. G. Master hopes to receive the report of the Board
of General Purposes on the above important question in time for
the Annual Communication in March."

The Board fully discussed and considered the question and
unanimously adopted the following Resolution :

"That this Board of General Purposes do not think it advi-
sable to take steps at present towards the formation of an Inde-
pendent Grand Lodge in British Columbia; whilst they feel that
circumstances may occur in the future to render such a proceed-
ing advisable."

Their Report was submitted to D. G. Lodge at its Annual
Communication in March, 1871, when the D. G. Master referred
to this subject in his Address, observing :

"The R. W. D. G. M. then rose and said it gave him great
pleasure once more to meet the Brethren in Quarterly Communi-
cation and to be able to congratulate them upon the general
prosperity of Masonry in the Jurisdiction. If some lodges were
slightly depressed others were quietly improving and certainly
the general tendency was satisfactory.

"The point to be brought before the D. G. L., was the Re-
port of the Board of General Purposes on the proposition to form
an Independent Grand Lodge, which had been referred to him by
the W. Masters and Brethren of the Lodges under his control.
In dealing with this very important subject, he would in the first
instance read to them his letter to the Grand Secretary of Eng-
land, written on the 8th February, 1869, to which was received
the following reply, dated May 10th, 1869. *Vide p.p. above.*

"The Brethren would therefore perceive from this corres-
pondence that he had not been insensible of, or indifferent to the
importance of this question, two years ago. In referring it to
the Board of General Purposes, he forwarded at the same time
the following Minute expressive of his views on the subject, (see
Memorandum above) and he now wished further to say that he

had no personal feeling in the matter, but was merely desirous to point out to them their position and his duty in such a case. He did not wish to fetter the action of any of the Brethren—if they thought the proposed change desirable, a course was clear to them—they could retire from the Jurisdiction, and when he found he had no one to preside over he would cheerfully bow to that decision and retire also; but so long as any competent number of the Brethren determined to abide by their Charters he would support them to the last and not abandon his post.

"He thought it only proper moreover to add that this question could not be decided by any section of the Craft until it had received the consideration of a competent power to deal with it, and that was the reason why he had in the first instance referred it to the Board of General Purposes, with a view of bringing their decision before the Grand Lodge for adoption or otherwise. By strict rule the question should have been brought before him in the first instance. He now wished further to state that no Brother under his Jurisdiction could be allowed as such to entertain the question, they can only act under the sanction of their Warrants in a Warranted Lodge and as such a proceeding would be contrary to their allegiance to our constitution, all they can do is to leave their Lodge, if they so desire it. If as, he had before stated, they did so he should be governed by the law laid down in Sec. 29, p. 71, of the Book of Constitutions, and if any Brethren remained true to their allegiance he should remain firm with them. *He left the whole matter in their hands for decision* upon the basis he had laid down, perfectly willing to bow to their decision; but he wished to state emphatically from the chair that he personally did not think the proposed change would be in any way advantageous, but that if the Brethren thought otherwise he was willing at once to forego his position so soon as they by their deliberate action left him without a jurisdiction to preside over."

On a vote being taken this Report and Resolution were unanimously adopted, and by direction of the D. G. Master the action of D. G. Lodge on this matter was communicated to the Committee of Vancouver Lodge by letter dated March 16th, 1871, in reply to their Circular, and also to the W. M.'s of the Lodges under the English Jurisdiction. Notwithstanding this notification of their objection emanating from the English Jurisdiction, the Committee met on the 18th March, 1871, and other Brethren being present proceeded to elect a Grand Master and Grand Officers and to declare a Grand Lodge of British Columbia duly formed.

The above named Brethren through the Grand Secretary elect (Bro. Heisterman) communicated (by Telegraph) with the

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*How Elwood Evans had Jan 18-1870 made an address to the
Masonic Rib. Assoc. on "The Re-annexation of British Columbia
to the U.S., right, proper and desirable. (see card in index)*

M. W. Bro. P. G. Master Ellwood Evans, of Washington Terri-
tory, and requested him to attend on Monday, the 20th of March,
1871, and install the Grand Master elect (R. W. Bro. Powell,
Provincial Grand Master for Scotland, who was at the time ab-
sent from the Colony,) and officers of the proposed Grand Lodge
of British Columbia, which invitation (with its result) was not
communicated to the Lodges in the Colony, nor to the objecting
Brethren of the English Jurisdiction, until the following letter
was received by the R. W. D. G. Master at 6:30 p. m., on the
evening of the said 20th day of March, 1871, being only one hour
before the time fixed for the intended Installation.

VICTORIA, B. C., 20th March, 1871.

Robert Burnaby, Esq., R. W. District Grand Master of British
Columbia, E. R.

R. W. and Dear Sir and Brother :

I am instructed by a Committee of the M. W. Grand
Lodge of British Columbia, to inform you that we have received
a telegram from the Hon. Ellwood Evans, M. W. P. Grand
Master of Washington Territory, stating that he will arrive this
evening and that he (gratefully) accepts the invitation to install
the Grand Master elect, at half-past 7 o'clock this evening.

On account of the deep interest you have always taken in
Masonry in the Colony, it will afford us great pleasure if you
will be present thereat.

I have the honor to be,

R. W. Dear Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

H. F. HEISTERMAN,

Secretary to G. L. Co.

On receipt of which the D. G. M. at once directed the
D. G. S. to attend at the place of meeting, and hand in the fol-
lowing letters, protesting against any further action being taken
in the matter for the present :

VICTORIA, B. C., 20th March, 1871.

The Most Worshipful Ellwood Evans, P. Grand Master of Wash-
ington Territory.

Dear Sir and Brother:

I am directed by the R. W. District Grand Master of F. & A.
Masons under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England in
British Columbia, to enter a formal protest against your instal-
ling an Independent Grand Master until you shall have been fully
satisfied from information derived through him of the legality of
the Lodge in which it is proposed that you should inst all him.

There are various legal points which are at present open and to be brought before you, and I am instructed to express the wish of the R. W. D. G. Master, acting on behalf of the Brethren whom he represents, as well as the representative of the Grand Lodge of England, that you will not take any action without due consideration of the points adverted to.

According to the laws of the Grand Lodge of England, under which we work, and also of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, a meeting of Masons under the circumstances under which the proposed Installation is to take place, is illegal and unmasonic. Any further information you may require, I am directed to state shall be furnished you in ample detail.

I have the honor to be,

Most Worshipful Sir and Brother,

By command of the D. G. M.,

THOS. SHOTBOLT, D. G. S.

VICTORIA, B. C., 20th March, 1871.

H. F. Heisterman, Esq.,

SIR,—Your letter of this date to the D. G. M. informing him that the P. G. Master of Washington Territory will install the so styled G. M. of British Columbia at half-past 7 o'clock this evening, was received by him at 6:30 o'clock.

I am directed by the District Grand Master to state in reply that he cannot be present at an informal and illegal meeting as you request him to do, and that he hereby in conjunction with his principal Grand Officers, enters a protest against your proceedings as being contrary to the established laws that govern the Craft for legitimate working.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

THOS. SHOTBOLT, D. G. S.

The District Grand Secretary did so attend and on his return reported that he had found the Brethren assembled as a Lodge and opened in the Third Degree, and properly tiled as such; the said Lodge being presided over by a Brother who was the W. Master of a Lodge at that time acting under dispensation from the P. G. Master for Scotland; and that a formal demand had been thrice made for the Warrant or other authority under which the assembly was acting, by a member of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, who was also a P. M. of an English Lodge in the Colony. This demand could not be complied with, and the Brother, after verbally protesting, stated that he could not recognize the meeting as a duly constituted Lodge of Masons, and he therefore felt it his duty to unclasp himself, which he did—and after discussion was permitted to retire.

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id so attend and on his the Brethren assembled d Degree, and properly sided over by a Brother that time acting under otland; and that a form- the Warrant or other acting, by a member of also a P. M. of an Eng- d could not be complied otesting, stated that he uly constituted Lodge of y to unclotbe himself— permitted to retire.

The Craft will thus perceive, from the above historical statement and record of facts, that "*precedence was reserved to the Grand Lodge of England in general Masonic affairs within the Colony*," and therefore any action taken by only a portion of the Brethren under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, contrary to the decision of the English Brethren duly communicated to them, was a virtual violation of the condition under which the Scotch Jurisdiction was originally introduced into the Colony; and was moreover directly opposed to the Resolution of Vancouver Lodge, (inviting the Lodges to meet in Convention— see p.p. 11 and 12,) since it was expressly "*deemed inexpedient*" by the whole of the English Jurisdiction; and was certainly not "*the unanimous action of the several Lodges in the Colony*."

It is moreover believed that the letter to the Grand Secretary of England and his reply (vide p.p. 7. 8 and 9.) correctly showed the then state of feeling on this question, which still remains unchanged in the aggregate, and farther that the objects sought, (as detailed in the Circular on page 5.) would not be obtained (so far as English Masonry is concerned) inasmuch, as the drain upon the funds of Subordinate Lodges (itself trifling) would not be lessened—but probably increased—by Independence, and would never practically accumulate so as to place the Brethren in a position equal to that which they now enjoy as entitled to be recipients of the ample charities of their own Mother Grand Lodge.

That should any "jealousies and rivalry" unhappily exist between the Lodges, (which so far has not occurred) any decision that might be arrived at by a Provincial or District Grand Lodge would find a valuable safeguard in the right of appeal to the higher, and necessarily more impartial, Mother Grand Lodges, and prevent dissatisfaction from arising, as it probably might do, under a local Supreme Head in a small community against whose decision there would be no appeal.

The Protest handed in by direction of the D. G. M. was based on the following grounds, in addition to the above named most important points:

1st—Because the action taken is believed to be contrary to the established Landmarks of the Grand Lodges of England and Scotland.

2d—Contrary to the established custom of other Jurisdictions at their formation.

3rd—Contrary to Masonic discipline: inasmuch as the proceedings were conducted without previous communication with and sanction of the Grand Lodge of Scotland (or its representative in British Columbia) having been first obtained and generally notified to the Craft, as would appear

to have been necessary from the remarks of the P. G. for the Scotch Jurisdiction in his Address to his P. Lodge, May 1st, 1869.

4th—Contrary to any expressed wish of a majority of the Brethren in the Colony; and contrary to the unanimous vote of the District Grand Lodge representing the Brethren hailing under the Grand Lodge of England, which vote had been duly notified to those Brethren who were attempting to form an Independent Grand Lodge, and who by their action would have deprived the English Freemasons of any opportunity of obtaining the sanction of their Grand Lodge, as the established custom they must necessarily have done (as subordinate thereto) before they could have participated in any such movement.

5th—That the Meeting held on Monday the 20th March 1871, and protested against by the D. G. M., as sitting clothed and actually opened as a Lodge of Master Masons and tiled as such, without Warrant, Dispensation or other lawful authority to be so met and assembled, was acting unconstitutionally and contrary to recognized Masonic law.

The foregoing historical statement, with the grounds of protest, are submitted to the judgment of the Craft, under the confident expectation that the action taken with reference thereto will meet with the approval of the Brethren at large and be further sustained by lawful authority.

Prepared by direction and under the inspection of the District Grand Master, and ordered to be issued from the District Grand Secretary's Office, Victoria, British Columbia, 24th April, 1871.

THOS. SHOTBOLT, D. G. S.

COLUMBIA.

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Address to his P. G.

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